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Market News

Issued LIVESTOCK DIVISION Weekly

MARKET REVIEWS AND STATISTICS

Vol. 24, No. 11 March 13, 1956

Week ended March 10

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
LIVESTOCK DIVISION
Washington 25, D. C.

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MIDWEST LIVESTOCK MARKET REVIEW

Livestock receipts decreased moderately compared with the previous week. Trading was fairly active on slaughter steers and heifers and daily supplies were usually well cleared. Fed steers closed largely 50¢-$1.00 higher while heifers advanced mostly 50-75¢. Hog prices fluctuated moderately during the week, butchers closing steady to 25¢ higher at most points. Marketings of slaughter lambs were smallest of the season but demand was also reduced and late prices were mainly 25-75¢ lower than a week ago.

SLAUGHTER CATTLE AND CALVES

Outlet for slaughter cattle broadened and prices showed a substantial advance, largely recovering declines recorded during the previous week. Fed steers advanced mostly 50¢-$1.00, heifers 50-75¢, while cows closed steady to $1.00 higher. Trade was fairly active and daily supplies were usually well cleared. Wholesale trade on steer beef was again rather slow with some further weakness at New York and Philadelphia. Thus, the week's advance in cattle prices was influenced to a large extent by a moderate decrease in receipts along with gradually increasing interest in fed steers weighing upward from around 1250# even though such kinds are still running quite freely. The week's average weights of beef steers at Chicago, Omaha and Sioux City were all heavier than a week earlier, the average of 1168# at Chicago being equal to the heaviest there in at least 30 years. These heavier than average weights and in some instances higher killing quality of many cattle compared with a year ago reflected the longer than usual term that many cattle have been in feedlots. Fully 14% of the beef steers at Chicago last week graded Prime compared with only one percent a year ago. At Omaha about 93% of the beef steers graded Good and Choice; at Sioux City about 89%, while at Kansas City nearly 86% were Good and Choice. Numbers of steers in commercial feedlots near Omaha continued to decrease, one large operator last week completing the marketing of around 9,300 head. Heifers were marketed in sizable numbers, making up 25% and more of the steer and heifer receipts at some markets.

Prime steers cashed at Chicago from $19.50-25.00; bulk $20.00-24.00; Choice $18.00-20.50; Good $15.50-17.50; few Utility and Commercial $12.50-14.50. Sales there included Prime 1475-1795# steers at $19.50-22.00; few loads high-Choice 1411-1560# $19.00-19.50; high-Good 1625# $16.00; Commercial 1600# $14.00. Prime steers mostly under 1200# reached $23.00 at Omaha, Sioux City and S. St. Paul, bulk Good and Choice at midwest markets other than Chicago $16.00-19.50. Among sales of heavy steers were Prime 1465# at Omaha at $22.00; and Prime 1325-1594# at Sioux City $20.50-21.50. Vealers sold steady to $1.00 lower at S. St. Paul, with little price change at other points.

STOCKER AND FEEDER CATTLE AND CALVES

There was considerable variation both in price trends and in numbers of stockers and feeders at terminal markets. At several points supplies were very small while at others receipts showed some increase. Although shipments of steers to the country from Kansas City totaled 4,734, compared with 3,894 the previous week, dealers at that market went into the weekend with a moderate number still on hand. Outgo of steers from the 10 markets totaled 16,970 compared with 16,258 a week earlier. Varying pasture and water conditione were factors influencing both marketings and demand. At Kansas City, the increased supply of stockers and feeders found rather slow outlet at steady to 50¢ lower prices, Choice under 600# stockers and Choice, fleshy 750-900# feeders showing least weakness. At Omaha prices were steady to strong and at Fort Worth strong to 50¢ higher. At St. Louis National Stock Yards, feeder steers sold weak to 50¢ lower while stockers held steady. At other markets prices were mostly

steady to weak. There was a moderate demand for Choice stockers 600# down and such offerings continued to command a very decided premium over the same grades of steers 700# up. However, during the past several weeks many buyers apparently have become more than normally "dollar" conscious, showing a tendency, if necessary to sacrifice somewhat in quality in order to hold per head costs down. Current price relationship between fats and feeders certainly is not such as to stimulate an aggressive country demand. At Kansas City, for example, the average cost of $17.28 for all stocker and feeder steers 500# up was $3.97 lower than the same week a year ago, while the average price of $16.85 for beef steers on that market was $5.49 under a year ago. The average price of $18.97 for all calves on that market was only $1.46 under a year ago, indicating the preference for "little" cattle that hold down the dollars-per-head cost, and that promise substantial weight gains through spring and summer grazing. Choice and Fancy 899# feeders brought $17.75, and high-Choice fleshy 736# yearlings reached $18.50. However, feeder steers 800# up continued to find relatively limited outlet above $16.50. Meanwhile, Good and Choice yearling stock steers sold from $16.00-20.00 with a few loads of high-Good and Choice steer calves and short yearlings from $20.50-22.00.

HOGS

Demand for hogs remained good throughout the week but prices changed only moderately in face of the week's liberal receipts and the mostly weak to lower prices in the Eastern wholesale fresh pork trade. Compared with the previous Friday, butchers closed mostly steady to 25¢ higher and sows steady to 50¢ higher. Combined receipts at the 12 terminal markets and the Interior-Iowa-S. Minnesota area were moderately below the previous week's seasonal record number and around 18% above last year. For the two months this year, combined receipts of about 7,300,000 salable hogs were 22% larger than receipts in the first two months a year ago. Except for a few sections late in the week, shippers were only moderate buyers at most terminal markets. On the other hand, some shippers in the Interior Area were very aggressive throughout the period. Weights 190-250# made up the bulk of the butcher supply, and in the Interior Area more than 50% consisted of 200-220# weights. Liberal offerings of new crop hogs and earlier marketings held butcher weights around 10# below a year ago, although slight increases were noted in average weights at some points as recent price discounts tended to curtail marketings of lightweight, unfinished hogs. A large share of butchers graded U. S. No. 2 and 3, but proportion of mixed No. 1 and 2 in weights 220# down showed some increase. Straight lots of No. 1 butchers were scarce. Price spread between lightweight and heavy butchers remained narrow. Weights 190-250# and even heavier often sold within a 50¢ spread. There was little sorting for grade, but lots grading No. 1 and 2 usually brought 25-50¢ more than mixed No. 1 to 3 of the same weight, and some No. 1 lots brought as much as $1.00 above more highly mixed lots of the same weight.

Stocker and feeder pig prices closed strong at Sioux City where Good and Choice 130-150# sold from $10.00-10.50, a few to $10.75. Sales at S. St. Paul were steady as Good and Choice bulked from $10.00-10.50, a few $11.00. The few 100-150# stocker and feeder pigs at Kansas City brought $9.00-10.00. Prices at Memphis were about steady, small supply Medium and Good 70-120# $8.00-9.00.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Receipts at midwest markets were smallest since last summer and more than 30% under a year ago. Reflecting lower wholesale dressed lamb prices, fat lambs sold steady to $1.00 or more lower, declines at most points measuring 25-75¢. Slaughter ewes and feeders were mainly steady. Lambs weighing over 110# were discounted as much as $2.00 per cwt. for around 130# averages, with little or no discount on lambs weighing up to 110#. Good to Prime wooled lambs 110# down bulked at $18.50-20.50, with some Good lambs in the Southwest down to $17.50.

Continued on page 227.

WEEKLY RECEIPTS OF SALABLE LIVESTOCK AT 12 PUBLIC MARKETS

Market	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep	
	Mar. 10 1956	Mar. 12 1955	Mar. 10 1956	Mar. 12 1955	Mar. 10 1956	Mar. 12 1955	Mar. 10 1956	Mar. 12 1955
Chicago	41,163	43,080	1,072	1,166	53,352	54,819	5,917	11,770
Cincinnati	3,882	3,559	1,104	1,055	21,047	18,352	248	504
Denver	14,600	15,233	826	836	2,442	2,863	19,970	26,456
Fort Worth	7,257	8,196	1,579	2,026	3,691	1,987	10,684	16,231
Indianapolis	8,084	7,837	1,063	1,305	64,316	62,533	1,219	1,138
Kansas City	22,258	17,533	1,218	1,168	12,333	8,351	7,033	6,965
Oklahoma City	12,507	9,867	1,222	1,395	4,637	3,721	2,231	1,993
Omaha	35,132	37,906	1,046	830	43,527	41,935	9,784	18,794
St. Joseph	13,907	15,169	590	1,033	31,743	25,588	2,925	2,996
St. Louis NSY	15,471	16,243	3,200	3,383	72,682	54,259	2,190	2,822
Sioux City	23,228	22,315	377	506	36,891	31,985	4,999	12,338
S. St. Paul	21,320	20,899	10,810	10,038	74,851	46,003	7,392	10,787
Total	218,809	217,837	24,107	24,741	421,512	352,396	74,592	112,794
Mar. 3, 1956	234,045		26,018		431,761		101,692	

INTERIOR IOWA AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

Week ended:	Hogs	Sheep
Mar. 10, 1956	424,000	22,200
Mar. 3, 1956	456,000	27,700
Mar. 12, 1955	365,000	26,300

FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER

	Week ended			Month		Two months	
	Mar. 8 1956	Mar. 1 1956	Mar. 10 1955	Feb. 1956	Feb. 1955	Jan. - Feb. 1956	Jan. - Feb. 1955
Steers - 1001# up	321	135	671	1,500	1,917	3,391	4,142
901-1000	1,411	1,093	1,862	5,513	8,202	11,608	16,813
801-900	2,476	2,852	2,756	10,199	10,804	26,382	26,171
701-800	3,505	2,500	2,849	11,081	10,966	28,349	28,492
501-700	9,257	9,678	7,981	32,465	26,110	67,233	70,928
Total steers 10 mkts.	16,970	16,258	16,119	60,758	57,999	136,963	146,546
Av. wts. " " "	698#	692#	723#	710#	738#	717#	721#
Av. cost* " " "	$16.58	$16.66	$20.12	$16.54	$19.71	$16.59	$19.76
" " " Chicago	16.29	16.58	19.33	16.86	20.24	16.81	20.02
" " " Ks. City	17.28	17.03	21.25	17.04	20.46	17.09	20.43
" " " Omaha	16.53	17.13	20.74	16.38	19.60	16.36	19.59
" " " S. St. Paul	14.65	14.78	17.80	15.03	18.10	15.05	17.59
" " " Sioux City	17.18	16.89	20.76	16.82	20.10	16.66	20.15
" " " Denver	15.73	16.48	20.78	16.11	20.12	17.53	22.09
" " " Ft. Worth	16.18	16.34	19.03	16.31	19.02	16.29	18.69
" " " Okla. City	16.07	16.67	20.08	16.40	19.12	16.33	18.46
" " " S. St. Joseph	16.49	16.64	20.18	16.41	19.24	16.38	19.41
" " " Natl. Stk. Yds.	16.06	15.98	18.76	16.20	18.81	16.14	18.61
Total calves-10 mkts.	4,766	5,002	5,116	18,931	15,937	53,071	65,126
" cows. heifers, bulls- " "	2,283	2,273	3,143	9,265	9,836	23,825	30,657

* Not adjusted for differences in grade of cattle sold at each market.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	8 1956	Mar. 1 1956	10 1955	8 1956	Mar. 1 1956	10 1955	8 1956	Mar. 1 1956	10 1955	8 1956	Mar. 1 1956	10 1955
CHICAGO												
Prime	3915	3974	235	14.2	13.4	1.0	1315	1296	1157	21.73	21.70	30.88
Choice	13926	16657	13513	50.6	56.4	57.5	1193	1193	1136	19.04	18.63	25.70
Good	8195	7451	7616	29.8	25.2	32.4	1082	1044	1012	17.05	16.63	21.95
Com'l.	1226	1093	1748	4.4	3.7	7.5	1012	971	949	14.87	14.51	18.12
Utility	283	380	373	1.0	1.3	1.6	1039	984	913	13.27	13.20	15.01
All grades	27545	29555	23485				1168	1158	1079	18.71	18.45	23.97
OMAHA 1/												
Prime	153	322	20	.9	1.9	.1	1270	1274	1357	22.28	22.13	30.00
Choice	9325	9085	7522	57.4	53.4	48.6	1174	1154	1128	18.47	18.27	24.27
Good	5790	6453	6720	35.7	38.0	43.5	1048	1065	1030	16.47	16.33	21.18
Com'l.	853	959	979	5.3	5.6	6.3	979	992	958	14.15	13.79	17.09
Utility	109	179	229	.7	1.1	1.5	922	868	905	11.74	11.67	14.83
All grades	16230	16998	15470				1118	1111	1072	17.61	17.37	22.47
SIOUX CITY 1/												
Prime	333	130	--	3.7	1.6	--	1293	1324	--	21.40	21.11	--
Choice	4351	3982	3507	47.7	49.4	51.1	1205	1187	1133	18.51	18.43	23.81
Good	3789	3358	2947	41.6	41.7	42.9	1103	1093	1068	16.90	16.65	21.08
Com'l.	566	419	371	6.2	5.2	5.4	987	998	993	14.83	14.46	16.87
Utility	76	168	44	.8	2.1	.6	952	1034	964	12.80	12.73	13.50
All grades	9115	8057	6869				1150	1137	1096	17.75	17.48	22.27
KANSAS CITY 1/												
Prime	-	32	--	--	.4	--	--	941	--	--	20.70	--
Choice	2921	2472	1521	38.6	31.0	39.5	1090	1111	1125	17.93	17.81	24.28
Good	3553	3487	2013	46.9	43.9	52.3	1056	1055	1009	16.60	16.39	21.50
Com'l.	1006	1619	290	13.3	20.3	7.5	1000	1010	960	14.72	14.96	17.11
Utility	90	350	24	1.2	4.4	.7	1008	1048	896	12.74	13.12	15.18
All grades	7570	7960	3848				1061	1063	1050	16.85	16.45	22.34
ST. LOUIS NSY 1/												
Prime	3	--	--	.1	--	--	1135	--	--	20.50	--	--
Choice	1339	1680	307	22.3	24.8	7.1	1131	1081	1073	18.30	18.01	24.89
Good	2991	3438	2543	49.9	50.8	58.7	1036	1033	999	16.57	16.47	22.13
Com'l.	1504	1409	1366	25.1	20.8	31.5	945	954	938	14.82	14.47	19.16
Utility	157	239	118	2.6	3.6	2.7	897	926	826	12.83	12.68	15.54
All grades	5994	6766	4334				1031	1025	980	16.51	16.36	21.30
S. ST. JOSEPH 1/												
Prime	22	6	--	.4	.1	--	1196	1124	--	20.08	20.99	--
Choice	2212	2739	1812	35.6	42.5	33.7	1123	1126	1109	18.25	17.97	24.19
Good	3200	2618	3110	51.4	40.6	57.8	1070	1080	1017	16.74	16.45	21.19
Com'l.	713	938	416	11.5	14.5	7.8	989	1045	1012	14.75	14.76	17.22
Utility	73	150	39	1.1	2.3	.7	887	982	847	12.64	12.84	14.05
All grades	6220	6451	5377				1078	1092	1046	17.06	16.81	21.92

Continued.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	Mar. 8 1956	Mar. 1 1956	Mar. 10 1955	Mar. 8 1956	Mar. 1 1956	Mar. 10 1955	Mar. 8 1956	Mar. 1 1956	Mar. 10 1955	Mar. 8 1956	Mar. 1 1956	Mar. 10 1955
DENVER 1/												
Prime	--	34	24	--	.6	.7	--	1112	983	--	21.00	25.50
Choice	3854	4002	2688	68.4	73.4	76.7	1146	1153	1095	18.11	18.09	24.36
Good	1620	1339	741	28.7	24.6	21.1	1065	1137	1050	16.58	16.40	22.69
Com'l.	151	76	51	2.7	1.4	1.5	951	1003	1076	13.45	12.85	16.32
Utility	12	--	--	.2	--	--	970	--	--	12.11	--	--
All grades	5637	5451	3504				1117	1147	1084	17.57	17.63	23.91

1/ These summaries developed from data collected on marketings of fed cattle by the Agricultural Estimates Division.

ESTIMATED FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER AND MEAT PRODUCTION

Week ended	Beef		Veal		Pork (excl. lard)		Lamb and mutton		Total meat prod.	Total lard prod.
	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.		
	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	mil. lb.	mil. lb.
Mar. 10, 1956	361	206.1	140	15.1	1,595	208.8	264	12.9	442.9	51.8
Mar. 3, 1956	379	214.5	145	16.0	1,634	216.8	293	14.4	461.7	53.9
Feb. 25, 1956 1/	338	192.3	138	15.6	1,371	182.1	261	12.8	402.8	46.3
Mar. 12, 1955	335	180.9	140	14.3	1,298	174.9	263	13.2	383.3	45.6
Percentage change from:										
Mar. 3, 1956	-5	-4	-3	-6	-2	-4	-10	-10	-4	-4
Mar. 12, 1955	+8	+14	0	+6	+23	+19	0	-2	+16	+19

Week ended	Average weights (lb.)								Lard yield per 100 lb.
	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep and lambs		
	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed 2/	Live	Dressed	
Mar. 10, 1956	1,025	571	195	108	230	131	104	49	14.1
Mar. 3, 1956	1,020	566	200	110	230	133	104	49	14.3
Feb. 25, 1956	1,025	569	205	113	231	133	103	49	14.7
Mar. 12, 1955	981	540	184	102	238	135	105	50	14.1

1/ Actual slaughter and revised estimate of production. 2/ Excludes lard.

WEEKLY SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION AT MAJOR CENTERS

City or Area	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep and lambs	
	Mar. 10 1956	Mar. 12 1955	Mar. 10 1956	Mar. 12 1955	Mar. 10 1956	Mar. 12 1955	Mar. 10 1956	Mar. 12 1955
Boston, New York City Area	12,998	11,443	12,260	12,132	60,922	53,614	43,325	44,893
Baltimore, Philadelphia	7,593	7,357	1,188	1,074	33,304	28,165	2,274	1,506
Cin., Cleve., Detroit, Indpls.	17,690	15,755	8,021	6,737	121,364	98,302	13,440	9,084
Chicago Area	25,839	25,754	6,203	7,264	62,947	73,665	5,631	6,406
St. Paul-Wis Areas	29,965	28,319	33,320	32,915	141,555	107,701	12,039	13,351
St. Louis Area	14,479	13,199	3,973	3,568	120,205	90,725	7,344	7,017
Sioux City	11,659	7,871	190	16	28,361	20,608	4,005	5,393
Omaha Area	31,323	29,858	630	920	105,140	64,739	14,750	17,435
Kansas City	14,607	12,983	2,323	2,369	50,854	28,567	11,139	9,159
Iowa-So. Minnesota	29,337	27,221	13,066	12,933	347,319	304,952	27,144	28,910
Lou'l. Evan'l. Nash'l. Mph's.	8,271	8,421	6,773	6,213	66,282	52,406	Not available.	
Georgia-Alabama Area	6,175	6,605	3,099	3,239	34,912	28,612	--	--
St. Jo'ph. Wichita, Okla. City	19,362	17,549	3,106	3,185	75,521	52,503	16,156	13,591
Ft. Worth, Dallas, San Antonio	12,875	12,391	5,035	5,783	31,164	21,473	11,740	14,649
Denver, Ogden, Salt Lake City	16,997	17,614	804	770	18,161	15,774	25,140	20,844
Los Angeles, San Fran. Areas	27,768	25,175	2,817	2,952	38,568	34,486	34,324	36,832
Portland, Seattle, Spokane	7,221	7,210	449	363	21,184	15,457	5,066	3,779
Total	294,159	274,725	103,257	102,433	1,357,763	1,091,749	233,517	232,849
Accumulation to date	3,020,888	2,842,774	1,032,991	1,022,890	12,702,641	10,555,209	2,516,217	2,443,277

ESTIMATED PERCENT FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE AND SLAUGHTER COWS IN SALABLE RECEIPTS

Week ended	Chicago	Kansas City	Omaha	S. St. Joseph	St Louis NSY	Sioux City	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	Denver	Fort Worth	Okla. City	Wichita	San Antonio
Feeders and stockers													
Mar. 9, 1956	2	35	8	8	10	13	5	6	5	15	55	32	45
Mar. 2, 1956	2	29	10	14	7	17	5	3	7	15	55	30	30
Mar. 11,1955	3	36	11	14	7	24	5	6	8	35	50	30	40
Slaughter cows													
Mar. 9, 1956	7	8	11	9	17	10	30	15	8	15	11	18	15
Mar. 2, 1956	7	10	12	9	16	11	30	13	9	13	11	16	15
Mar. 11,1955	13	13	9	13	16	7	30	26	20	17	13	20	30

CATTLE: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	Chicago			Kansas City			Omaha		
	Mar. 10 1956	Mar. 3 1956	Mar. 12 1955	Mar. 10 1956	Mar. 3 1956	Mar. 12 1955	Mar. 10 1956	Mar. 3 1956	Mar. 12 1955
Slaughter cattle, calves and vealers									
Steers –									
Prime 900–1100#	23.32	23.12	30.80	21.72	21.12	28.62	23.18	22.75	29.15
1100–1300	23.22	22.92	31.70	21.25	20.40	29.00	22.92	22.25	30.05
Choice 900–1100	20.12	19.75	27.00	19.32	18.90	25.12	20.02	19.55	25.52
1100–1300	19.82	19.10	27.00	18.65	18.30	25.12	19.72	19.18	25.52
Good 900–1100	17.05	16.85	21.80	16.68	16.30	20.88	16.50	16.05	20.72
Com'l. All wts.	14.75	14.55	18.00	14.70	14.55	17.25	14.00	13.52	17.25
Heifers –									
Prime 600–800#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Choice " "	18.38	18.18	23.62	18.32	18.12	22.25	18.28	18.02	22.50
Good 500–900	16.35	15.98	19.85	16.34	16.18	18.85	16.18	15.75	18.30
Com'l. All wts.	14.20	13.85	16.65	14.08	14.00	15.75	13.70	13.48	14.60
Cows – All weights									
Commercial	12.68	12.08	13.25	12.32	11.98	13.25	12.00	11.78	13.40
Utility	11.48	10.88	11.70	11.30	10.72	11.75	11.08	10.60	11.78
Canner & Cutter	10.62	9.75	10.08	10.28	9.82	10.15	9.75	9.35	9.95
Bulls – All weights –									
Good	12.75	12.55	12.75	--	--	--	12.25	12.35	11.75
Utility & Commercial	14.84	14.52	14.98	13.40	13.58	12.90	13.18	13.14	13.49
Vealers – All weights –									
Choice & Prime	24.40	26.10	25.00	21.00	21.00	21.50	21.50	22.50	22.50
Com'l. & Good	19.00	20.20	20.00	17.00	17.00	16.00	16.50	17.00	17.50
Calves – 500# down									
Choice & Prime	19.50	19.50	20.00	16.75	17.00	18.00	18.75	18.75	20.50
Com'l. & Good	15.00	15.00	15.50	14.00	14.00	14.50	14.50	14.25	16.00
Feeder and stocker cattle and calves									
Steers –									
Choice 500–800#	19.50	19.50	22.40	18.75	18.88	23.50	19.25	19.00	22.50
Good " "	16.50	16.50	19.75	17.25	17.50	20.75	17.12	17.12	20.00
Medium 500–1000	14.50	14.50	17.25	14.62	15.00	17.75	14.75	14.62	17.25
Heifers –									
Choice 500–750	16.50	16.50	18.25	16.50	16.50	19.50	16.62	16.50	18.00
Med. & Gd. " "	13.50	13.50	15.25	14.00	14.00	16.00	13.62	13.50	14.50
Cows – All weights –									
Medium & Good	--	--	--	11.75	11.25	12.00	10.88	10.88	11.62
Calves – 300–500# –									
Steers –									
Good & Choice	21.00	21.00	22.00	19.50	19.50	22.25	20.50	20.50	22.00
Heifers –									
Good & Choice	17.50	17.50	18.50	17.00	17.00	19.00	17.00	17.00	18.50

HOGS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification		Chicago			Interior Iowa and southern Minnesota			Indianapolis		
		10 1956	Mar. 3 1956	12 1955	10 1956	Mar. 3 1956	12 1955	10 1956	Mar. 3 1956	12 1955
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160–180#	11.05	10.80	14.85	10.02	9.79	13.78	11.08	10.92	15.50
2 and 3	180–200	12.18	12.08	15.72	11.64	11.40	15.12	12.35	12.32	15.70
	200–220	12.22	12.22	15.74	12.13	11.90	15.37	12.48	12.40	15.70
	220–240	12.28	12.25	15.61	11.79	11.52	14.99	12.30	12.14	15.40
	240–270	12.02	11.97	15.23	11.39	11.06	14.38	12.00	11.82	14.90
	270–300	11.76	11.68	14.94	10.90	10.60	13.62	11.55	11.42	14.50
Sows –										
	300–330#	11.40	11.28	14.22	10.60	10.32	13.12	10.95	11.00	13.45
	360–400	10.95	10.82	13.85	10.13	9.85	12.46	10.75	10.75	13.25
	450–550	10.35	10.25	13.00	9.51	9.22	11.26	9.75	9.85	12.95
Pigs (stocker and feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70–120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

		Omaha			St. Louis National Stock Yards			Sioux City		
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160–180#	--	--	--	12.10	12.11	15.42	--	--	--
2 and 3	180–200	12.88	12.65	15.92	12.72	12.72	15.82	12.22	13.10	--
	200–220	12.88	12.65	15.92	12.78	12.70	15.70	12.70	12.52	15.90
	220–240	12.88	12.65	15.82	12.61	12.58	15.42	12.68	12.47	15.72
	240–270	12.40	12.28	15.35	12.28	12.22	15.02	12.28	12.02	15.22
	270–300	11.80	11.62	14.82	11.75	11.66	14.66	11.70	11.40	14.58
Sows –										
	300–330#	11.12	11.10	--	10.72	10.75	14.25	10.95	10.78	13.78
	360–400	10.82	11.10	14.05	10.35	10.38	13.98	10.62	10.38	13.52
	450–550	10.20	10.12	13.48	9.60	9.62	13.25	9.77	9.50	12.62
Pigs (stocker & feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70–120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

		S. St. Paul			Baltimore			N. Portland		
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160–180#	12.30	12.25	15.90	12.90	12.75	16.56	14.00	13.84	18.25
2 and 3	180–200	13.10	12.90	16.02	13.35	13.12	16.69	14.50	14.34	18.50
	200–220	13.10	12.90	15.90	13.35	13.12	16.68	14.50	14.34	18.50
	220–240	13.10	12.90	15.68	13.10	13.00	16.22	14.00	13.94	18.25
	240–270	12.60	12.52	15.12	12.45	12.25	15.72	13.00	13.09	17.50
	270–300	11.68	11.58	14.25	11.69	11.50	15.00	12.75	12.81	16.88
Sows –										
	300–330#	10.72	10.62	13.78	10.12	10.17	14.48	12.00	11.75	16.12
	360–400	10.42	10.12	13.15	10.12	10.17	14.48	10.75	10.75	15.50
	450–550	9.90	9.62	12.52	9.00	9.00	12.44	9.50	9.75	14.75
Pigs (stocker & feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70–120#	10.25	10.50	15.00	--	--	--	--	--	--

HOGS: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER OF PACKER AND SHIPPER PURCHASES 1/

	Week ended	Chicago	St. Louis Natl. Stock Yards	Kansas City	Omaha	Sioux City	S. St. Joseph	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	8-mkts. combined
AVERAGE COST -					Dollars per 100 pounds					
Barrows and gilts	Mar. 10,1956	11.99	12.39	12.41	12.35	12.24	12.45	12.33	12.13	12.27
	Mar. 3,1956	11.91	12.34	12.22	12.20	12.10	12.39	12.16	12.08	12.17
	Mar. 12,1955	15.21	15.43	15.42	15.25	15.01	15.52	15.33	15.27	15.29
Sows	Mar. 10,1956	10.64	10.05	10.45	10.62	10.21	10.54	10.18	9.97	10.32
	Mar. 3,1956	10.54	10.08	10.41	10.52	9.92	10.61	10.10	9.94	10.29
	Mar. 12,1955	13.46	13.82	13.58	13.66	13.04	13.96	13.36	12.95	13.46
AVERAGE WEIGHT -					Pounds					
Barrows and gilts	Mar. 10,1956	238	218	218	229	234	218	224	222	225
	Mar. 3,1956	234	219	217	230	234	221	222	221	225
	Mar. 12,1955	247	219	225	250	251	230	231	226	235
Sows	Mar. 10,1956	432	420	417	411	410	391	406	435	420
	Mar. 3,1956	422	413	454	407	411	390	407	451	418
	Mar. 12,1955	442	405	430	426	417	391	400	446	422
NUMBER OF HEAD -										
Barrows and gilts	Mar. 10,1956	42903	66212	10986	37856	33011	29086	68832	59019	347905
	Mar. 3,1956	44946	65796	12529	42011	35478	31014	74404	51267	357445
	Mar. 12,1955	46592	48176	7722	37497	28295	23201	41277	57696	290456
Sows	Mar. 10,1956	5085	3445	596	2830	1134	1439	3059	3775	21363
	Mar. 3,1956	5813	3427	652	3033	1370	2051	3138	3094	22578
	Mar. 12,1955	3135	2341	448	2235	1151	1457	2031	2585	15383
SOWS					Percentage of total					
	Mar. 10,1956	11	5	5	7	3	5	4	6	6
	Mar. 3,1956	11	5	5	7	4	6	4	6	6
	Mar. 12,1955	6	5	5	6	4	6	5	4	5

1/ Weighted average.

WEEKLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE VALUE OF HOG PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM 100 LB. LIVE HOG, COMPARED WITH PRICES OF LIVE HOGS, CHICAGO

	Hog products 1/	Hog prices 2/	Gross spread or margin 3/
Mar. 10, 1956	$15.25	$12.18	+$3.07
Mar. 3, 1956	15.26	12.08	+ 3.18
Mar. 12, 1955	17.38	15.72	+ 1.66

1/ Value of all edible products, fresh basis (lard rendered) in 100 lb. of live hog computed from wholesale prices on cariot basis, Chicago, reported by National Provisioner daily market report.

2/ Mean of daily quotations on U.S.No. 1, 2 and 3 hogs 180-200# wt. Chicago.

3/ Difference between wholesale product value and hog prices.

HOG AND CORN PRICES AT CHICAGO AND HOG-CORN PRICE RATIO

Week ended	Barrows and gilts Dollars per 100 pounds	Corn, 1/ No. 3, yellow Cents per bushel	Hog-corn price ratio based on barrows and gilts
Mar. 10, 1956	11.99	127.6	9.4
Mar. 3, 1956	11.91	124.5	9.6
Mar. 12, 1955	15.21	143.3	10.6

1/ Simple average price.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS
In dollars per 100 pounds

		Chicago	Omaha	Kansas City	Fort Worth	Denver	Ogden & North Salt Lake	South San Francisco
LAMBS - 110# down (WOOLED) -								
Choice and Prime	Mar. 10, 1956	20.60	20.10	19.40	--	19.60	--	--
	Mar. 3, 1956	20.65	20.60	20.25	--	20.08	--	18.50**
	Mar. 12, 1955	23.50	22.62	22.28	--	22.20	--	21.25
Good and Choice	Mar. 10, 1956	19.75	19.30	18.45	18.30	18.78	17.25	18.75
	Mar. 3, 1956	19.90	19.65	19.35	18.45	19.00	17.60	18.00**
	Mar. 12, 1955	22.80	21.75	21.15	22.75*	20.55	20.50	20.25
EWES (WOOLED) -								
Good and Choice	Mar. 10, 1956	7.75	6.50	5.15	--	9.50	7.00	--
	Mar. 3, 1956	7.75	6.00	5.00	--	9.25	6.50	--
	Mar. 12, 1955	8.25	8.50	7.75	--	9.50	--	9.00
Cull and Utility	Mar. 10, 1956	5.95	4.50	4.10	--	7.12	4.50	--
	Mar. 3, 1956	5.75	4.45	4.25	--	6.75	4.00	--
	Mar. 12, 1955	6.75	6.75	6.25	--	6.38	--	5.50
FEEDER LAMBS -								
Good and Choice	Mar. 10, 1956	--	--	--	16.75	18.00	--	--
	Mar. 3, 1956	--	19.00	--	17.20	18.45	--	--
	Mar. 12, 1955	--	21.00	--	19.00	20.75	--	--

*Spring lambs. **Shorn basis.

USDA ANNOUNCES CHANGE IN COMMERCIAL BEEF GRADE, EFFECTIVE JUNE 1

The Commercial grade of beef will be divided into two new grades designated as Standard and Commercial, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced today. The present grades for beef are Prime, Choice, Good, Commercial, Utility, Cutter and Canner. The new grades will become effective June 1, 1956.

The division of the present Commercial grade is being made on the basis of maturity and the grade name "Standard" will be applied to beef from younger animals of the grade. The name "Commercial" will be retained for beef from mature animals falling in the present Commercial grade.

The present Commercial grade includes carcasses from animals within the full range of maturity as animals are marketed. It differs in this respect from the Prime, Choice and Good grades which are restricted to carcasses from relatively young cattle.

3/6/56.

NEW YORK WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Western Dressed Fresh Meats

Trading was slow at all wholesale centers in the New York area. Available stocks were for the most part in excess of demand. Offerings of beef and veal were normal, but current unloads of the latter were supplemented by carried over lots. Supply of calf was seasonally small. Fresh receipts of lamb were sharply increased, and along with a fair-sized carryover proved burdensome. Packers and wholesalers endeavored to arouse buyer interest in lamb and veal but lower prices failed to promote movement of these classes. Prices on early days held about steady for most Western dressed fresh meats, but as the supply of preferred steer and cow beef and lamb weighing around 45# dwindled, price resistance expanded to a degree that resulted in a generally lower trend. Compared with the previous week: Steer beef weak to 50¢ lower; cow beef steady to $1.00 higher; veal $1.00-4.00 lower; calf unchanged; lamb steady to $1.00 lower; pork loins steady to $2.00 lower, other fresh pork cuts steady to $3.00 lower.

Carcasses grading Good and Choice made up the major portion of the steer beef supply with only a small number of Prime carcasses included. Bulk fell within the 700-950# weight range. Prime steer beef sold steady. Choice was mostly weak to 50¢ lower, while Good sold late at a $1.00 decline. Prices of high-Commercial cow carcasses reflected the week's upturn, while sales otherwise were generally steady to weak.

Stocks of veal were excessive and included all grades and weights. Buyer interest lagged from the outset with late trade mostly a peddling affair. Lamb sellers encountered little difficulty in clearing carcasses 45# down at steady prices. Sales of the bulk of 50-70# offerings were made at unevenly weak to $1.00 lower prices with indications of a sizable carryover.

Prices on most primal fresh pork cuts declined on early days as the volume of sales was insufficient to clear daily offerings. Prices leveled after midweek, however, but bulk of fresh loins were committed in retail channels at lower prices for the week. Very few fresh skinned hams were included in the supply as the greater portion were assigned to processing operations.

Locally Dressed Fresh Meats

Local slaughterers operated conservatively in most instances, and volume was somewhat reduced during the first half of the week. Prime steer beef was in very small supply. Bulk of the lamb consisted of weights 50# up. Vealers predominated in the calf and vealer supply. Trading at wholesale levels was only fair at best for kosher and non-kosher offerings. Steer beef prices held mostly steady while veal and calf prices were weak to lower. Weakness also featured the lamb and fresh pork trade.

Movement of primal steer cuts was of about the same volume as during the previous week. Demand centered on Prime offerings along with cuts out of lightweight carcasses. Prices averaged around steady despite some variation on wholesale cuts, notably arm chucks and rounds. Small advances were registered on Prime hindquarters while other Prime cuts sold steady to strong. Sales of kosher forequarters and related wholesale kosher cuts were made at prices comparable to those prevailing a week earlier.

Demand for veal and calf hindsaddles was limited and prices were revised downward on the bulk of offerings. Daily clearances were incomplete as the supply exceeded the demand throughout. Lamb carcasses scaling 50-70# were liberally represented in local sales' coolers as these made up the bulk of daily kills. Carcasses 45# down and lamb hindsaddles under 24# moved dependably at steady prices. Heavier offerings were $2.00-3.00 lower for the week. Outlet for most primal fresh pork cuts was rather limited up to midweek when buyer interest increased. Clearances appeared fairly complete despite the early lag and prices leveled at declines posted on opening days.

CHICAGO WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Supplies of steer and heifer beef were about normal and well in line with recent volume. Good and Choice offerings predominated. The supply of veal of all weights and grades increased compared to recent weeks, and proved excessive for a slow trade. Lamb and fresh pork cut offerings were normal most of the week. Weights 55-65# made up bulk of the lamb, with pork loins mainly 8-12# averages. Trading in pork was dull early but on later days participation by volume buyers influenced some strength, particularly on pork loins. Prime beef found dependable outlet, but trading on other grades of carcass beef and cuts was rather slow. Slightly higher beef prices were realized mostly in carload selling. Carryover of carcass lamb and veal, and lamb cuts, along with dull outlet locally and in the East were all factors in the week's lower prices on lamb and veal. The reduced volume of carcass lamb under 50# and lamb forequarter cuts cleared best. Chain stores and hotel and restaurant supply houses took bulk of the week's fresh meat offerings. Fresh pork clearance at wholesale is expected to be good, other classes only fair. Compared to last Thursday's close: Beef mostly 50¢ higher; veal $1.00-2.00 lower; lamb $1.00-1.50 lower; pork loins 8-16# 50¢ to $1.50 higher other pork cuts 50¢ to $1.00 lower.

Choice and Prime squarecut beef chucks brought $26.00-28.00, comparable rounds $37.00-41.00; Prime loins $80.00-84.00, Choice $52.00-60.00. Prime ribs from 600-800# carcasses cashed at $55.00-57.00, Choice $36.00-40.00; Choice and Prime kosher style chucks $27.00-29.00. Lamb hindsaddles cleared at $45.00-52.00; legs $40.00-47.00; loins $52.00-58.00; hotel ribs $48.00-52.00. Lamb stews ranged from $14.00-18.00; shoulders $21.00-28.00.

PACIFIC COAST WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Supplies of most fresh meats were fully adequate to liberal for the current limited demand at all points on the West Coast. Cow carcasses were the most limited in the beef line while calf carcasses were practically out of stock in the Northwest although sufficient in California. Incoming shipments of beef into Southern California were somewhat smaller than recently but local slaughter was sufficient to satisfy all demands. Fresh and cured pork cuts were liberal. Demand for smoked skinned hams broadened slightly due to pre-Easter bookings. Cooler supplies were in fairly fresh condition but coolers were more heavily stocked than at the previous week's close. Trading was slow on most classes of fresh and cured meats. Outlet for beef loins improved at Los Angeles while briskets were in good demand at San Francisco. Prices compared to last Friday: Steer beef $1.00-2.00 higher at Los Angeles, steady at San Francisco and weak to $1.00 lower in the Northwest; cow beef mostly steady, instances on Cutter $1.00 higher at San Francisco; veal and calf steady; lamb steady to $1.00 higher at Los Angeles and $1.00 lower in the Northwest; fresh pork loins steady to $1.00 higher; other fresh pork steady except instances $1.00 lower in the Northwest; smoked skinned hams $2.00-5.00 higher; slab bacon steady to $1.00 lower; other smoked meat and lard about steady.

Choice steer carcasses under 700# brought $30.00-33.00, 700-800# $29.00-31.00 Good under 700# $26.00-31.00, few sales to $32.00 at San Francisco; Commercial $26.00-30.00. Commercial cow bulked from $23.00-26.00; Utility $22.00-25.00; Canner and Cutter $18.00-22.00. Good and Choice veal under 150# brought $40.00-50.00 in the Northwest, $38.00-44.00 at San Francisco; same grades of calf under 200# $32.00-39.00 in California only; Commercial $29.00-33.00. Choice and Prime lamb carcasses under 55# cleared from $33.00-39.00; Good, all weights, $30.00-38.00. Closely trimmed pork loins under 16# brought $34.00-40.00, few up to $42.00 at San Francisco; shoulders under 16# $22.00-32.00; smoked skinned hams under 18# $45.00-52.00; slab bacon under 10# $28.00-42.00; sliced 1# packages of bacon $34.00-45.00; lard in 1# cartons $13.50-18.00.

WHOLESALE DRESSED MEAT PRICES: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	New York			Chicago			San Francisco		
	Mar. 10 1956	Mar. 3 1956	12 1955	Mar. 10 1956	Mar. 3 1956	12 1955	Mar. 10 1956	Mar. 3 1956	12 1955
Beef –									
Steer –									
Prime 600–700#	38.00	38.00	--	37.00	37.25	50.50	--	--	--
700–800	36.00	36.00	51.50	37.00	37.25	50.50	--	--	--
Choice 500–600	--	--	--	32.95	33.00	40.25	32.50	32.70	40.70
600–700	34.40	34.80	43.50	32.95	33.00	42.10	31.00	31.00	39.20
Good 350–600	31.00	31.00	37.70	27.95	28.20	35.00	30.50	30.50	39.05
Com'l. " "	28.00	28.00	33.50	26.75	26.60	32.00	28.00	28.00	36.00
Cow, all wts. –									
Commercial	26.00	25.90	29.00	--	--	--	26.00	26.00	30.00
Utility	24.00	24.00	25.50	--	--	--	23.00	23.00	27.00
Veal –									
Prime 80–110#	41.00	44.20	43.00	41.30	42.90	41.30	--	--	--
Choice " "	35.50	38.50	35.00	36.80	38.70	38.10	--	--	43.00
Good " "	31.00	33.00	31.00	33.80	35.40	34.00	43.00	43.80	42.60
Lamb –									
Prime 40–50#	37.10	38.20	44.00	36.85	37.75	43.00	38.00	38.00	43.00
50–60	35.20	36.00	44.00	33.90	34.25	41.00	37.00	37.00	41.00
Choice 40–50	37.10	38.20	41.50	36.85	37.75	42.00	38.00	38.00	43.00
50–60	35.20	36.00	41.30	33.90	34.25	39.00	35.00	35.00	41.00
Good all wts.	35.00	35.00	40.50	33.40	34.00	38.00	35.50	35.50	38.50
Pork – Fresh –									
Loins 8–10# av.	33.60	35.10	38.70	31.75	31.85	36.70	38.00	38.40	46.50
10–12 "	33.60	35.10	38.70	31.75	31.85	36.70	39.00	39.40	43.50
12–16 "	32.70	34.00	38.20	31.35	31.65	36.50	39.00	39.00	41.00
Butts 4–8 "	29.10	31.00	36.20	25.10	26.75	29.90	34.00	34.00	40.50
Pork – Cured –									
Hams, smk., skd. –									
12–16# av.	47.00	45.50	46.00	50.15	49.65	47.15	50.00	50.00	51.00
16–18 "	44.90	42.00	42.80	49.20	47.80	45.75	47.50	47.50	48.00
18–20 "	--	--	--	48.65	47.55	45.20	--	--	--
Bacon, smk., slab –									
6–8# av.	--	--	--	31.25	32.60	47.65	40.00	40.00	53.00
8–10 "	32.50	34.50	43.00	30.00	31.05	43.70	38.00	38.00	47.50
Sliced 1 # pkg.	36.50	37.00	49.50	36.30	36.80	51.60	42.50	42.50	51.00
Picnics, smoked –									
4–8# av.	24.00	24.50	33.00	29.00	28.85	33.70	30.00	30.00	34.00
Backs, D. S. –									
16–20# av.	13.50	13.50	14.00	11.75	11.55	11.50	--	--	--
Lard, 1# cartons –									
Refined	16.00	16.50	16.50	14.75	14.75	15.25	17.25	17.25	17.50
Substitutes	--	--	--	25.00	25.00	28.00	--	--	--

Note: Quotations at New York exclude locally dressed meats.

BOSTON WOOL MARKET REVIEW

Movement of greasy domestic worsted wools in the Boston market was very slow as approximately eight cars were moved. Prices held unchanged for all classes of combing wools. There was very little interest on the part of mill buyers and top-makers. Scoured wools and noils were slow to move at unchanged prices. Activity in the west increased slightly as a few sales and contracts were made in the territory States and Texas. Country buyers also were operating in the fleece wool States for future delivery.

Cabled reports early in the week showed fine Australian wools firm while crossbreds were definitely easier. The United Kingdom and the Continent were the main buyers supported by local mills, Japan and United States representatives. New Zealand prices were definitely easier with general competition. In the new season for short wools in South Africa prices held firm under good general competition with Bradford, Germany and Japan dominating. Trading in South American markets remained quiet.

Fleece Wools - Graded 3/8s good French combing and staple fleeces sold around $1.08 clean basis while 56/58s baby combing fleeces sold for future delivery at 96¢ and medium seedy and burry wools at 86¢ clean. Country buyers paid 44¢-45¢ grease basis to the growers early in the week.

Territory Wools - Graded 64s good French combing and staple territory wool of average style sold around $1.28 clean basis while a small quantity of average to short French combing 64s brought $1.18 and a 64s clothing wool moved at $1.12 clean. A small lot of choice light shrinking graded 56/58s good French and staple wool sold at $1.15 while a graded 50/56s good French combing and staple brought $1.07 clean.

In Wyoming, bulk fine and half blood wools were purchased in the basin area at 43¢-48¢ and were estimated to cost around $1.24-1.25 delivered Boston. A mixed clip in Idaho at 45¢ f.o.b. was estimated around $1.15 clean, delivered Boston. New Mexico, bulk fine wools were estimated to cost clean from $1.25-1.28, delivered Boston. Bulk fine, good French combing and staple Arizona wools were purchased at 48½¢ f.o.b. and were estimated up to $1.37 clean, landed Boston.

Texas Wools - Original bag 12 months Texas wool, bulk average to good French combing sold at $1.35 clean basis. Recent sales of 1955 choice good French combing and staple 12 months wools in Texas were estimated to cost up to $1.45 clean basis, delivered Boston.

Mohair - Several cars of mohair were sold in Texas early in the week at 81½¢ for adult and $1.01½ for kid mohair to the warehouse. Late in the week activity had subsided and few sales were made.

Sales of CCC Wools - The Commodity Credit Corporation announced on March 8, 1956 that about 626,000 pounds of C.C.C.-owned wool from bids received on a total of about 6,276,000 pounds, were sold. The principal grades, quantities and sales price ranges (before discounts, if any) follow:

	Pounds	Price Range
Graded territory 1/2 blood staple and good French	8,829	$ -$1.251
" " 3/8s " short French and clothing	54,092	.85 - 1.06
" " 1/4 " staple and good French 48/50s	36,871	1.06
" " low 1/4 blood	33,167	.955- .97
O. B. Texas 12 months average and good French	18,201	1.35 - 1.372
Fall Texas, best length	56,372	1.11 - 1.121
" " average to short	30,039	1.002
Graded fleece, fine average and good French	14,599	1.18
" " 3/8s blood staple and good French	43,206	1.07
Scoured shorn territory 3/8s blood staple & Gd.French	124,774	1.15 - 1.214
" " " 1/4 " " " " " " 50/54s	5,465	1.18
" " fleece 3/8s blood staple & Gd. French	67,096	1.145-1.2125
" " " 1/4 " " " " " 48/50s	34,042	1.055-1.162

UNITED STATES EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF MEATS

Commodity	Dec. 1955	Dec. 1954
	Pounds	Pounds
EXPORTS (Domestic) -		
Beef and veal -		
Fresh or frozen	1,342,801	5,045,095
Pickled or cured	1,607,951	744,350
Pork -		
Fresh or frozen	802,355	570,522
Hams & shoulders, cured or cooked	1,511,464	1,400,435
Bacon	139,533	134,914
Other pork, pickled, salted or otherwise cured, (includes sausage ingredients)	3,306,229	1,499,476
Sausage, bologna & frankfurters, (except canned)	250,912	126,153
Other meats, except canned	8,146,172	5,740,050
Canned meats -		
Beef and veal	792,450	928,284
Sausage, bologna & frankfurters	1,132,502	637,382
Hams and shoulders	213,262	137,430
Other pork, canned	384,855	293,937
Other meats & meat products, canned 1/	344,711	321,563
Lamb and mutton (except canned)	103,786	29,938
Lard, (includes rendered pork fat)	69,813,093	57,323,826
Tallow, edible	441,148	86,744
Tallow, inedible	87,133,867	80,148,012
Inedible animal oils, n.e.c., (includes lard oil)	105,781	189,226
Inedible animal greases & fats(incl. grease stearin)	18,474,373	10,967,312
IMPORTS -		
Beef, fresh or frozen	2,745,451	1,023,958
Veal, fresh or frozen	1,052	44,349
Beef and veal, pickled or cured	451,297	615,361
Canned beef (includes corned beef)	3,715,300	4,111,728
Pork, fresh or chilled or frozen	2,441,583	4,062,984
Hams, shoulders, bacon & other pork 2/	479,863	623,444
Canned cooked hams & shoulders	8,038,442	9,984,414
Other pork, prepared or preserved 3/	822,028	1,403,426
Meat, canned, prep. or pres. n.e.s.	327,954	283,096
Lamb, mutton and goat meat	119,446	45,860
Tallow, edible	--	--
Tallow, inedible	474,420	119,800

1/ Includes many items which consist of varying amounts of meat.
2/ Not cooked, boned or canned or made into sausage.
3/ Includes fresh pork sausage.

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

UNITED STATES EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF LIVESTOCK

	Dec. 1955	Dec. 1954
	Number	Number
EXPORTS (domestic) -		
Cattle for breeding	3,061	3,783
Other cattle	4,840	412
Hogs (swine)	1,147	143
Sheep	734	336
Horses, for breeding	10	19
Other horses	283	36
Mules, asses and burros	--	6
IMPORTS -		
Cattle for breeding, free -		
Canada 1/ -		
Bulls	43	58
Cows	1,123	1,189
Other Countries -		
Cows	5	--
Cattle, other edible (dut.) -		
Canada -		
Over 700 pounds (Dairy)	1,643	1,415
Over 700 pounds (Other)	32	2,619
200-700 pounds	71	1,095
Under 200 pounds	--	3
Mexico -		
Over 700 pounds (Dairy)	--	--
Over 700 pounds (Other)	1,129	--
200-700 pounds	15,317	--
Hogs -		
Edible, except for breeding (dut.) 2/	45	633
Horses -		
For breeding, free	94	34
Other (dut.)	203	122
Sheep, lambs and goats, edible (dut.)	114	--

1/ Includes Newfoundland and Labrador.
2/ Number of hogs based on estimate of 200 pounds per animal.

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

EARLY LAMB CROP - 1956

The 1956 early spring lamb crop in the principal early lamb States is estimated to be about 2 percent below last year, according to the Crop Reporting Board. The smaller early lamb crop is due to a smaller number of breeding ewes. The percentage of ewes lambing early this season is about the same as last year. The number of breeding ewes was down from a year ago in Texas, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. In the rest of the early lamb States ewe numbers were the same or larger than a year ago. California, the leading early lamb State, and Texas showed a lower percentage of the ewes lambing early than a year earlier, while in other States the percentage of early lambs was the same or larger than a year ago. In the early lambing States, the 1956 lambing percentage (lambs saved per 100 ewes) is about the same as a year ago.

Mild, open winter weather in most areas, except the Pacific Northwest, has been favorable for early lambing and holding down losses. The feed situation has also been favorable in most sections. Some supplemental feeding has been done to maintain condition of ewes and promote growth of lambs, but carryover stocks of feed are ample in most areas. Feeding of hay has been heavy in the Northwest and may be in short supply if there is a late spring. New feed prospects are slow and uncertain in some important producing areas. New feed prospects are most favorable in Tennessee, Idaho, and California. The outlook is less favorable in Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, Texas, Washington, and Oregon.

In the Southeastern States the number of early lambs saved is larger than a year ago due to a larger number of ewes lambing and also a higher proportion lambing earlier than a year ago. In the Pacific Northwest the early lamb crop is only slightly larger than a year ago.

California: The early lamb crop in California is smaller than last year. The inventory of breeding ewes on farms and ranches is larger than a year earlier, but the lambing percentage and the proportion of ewes lambing early is below a year ago. Death losses have been relatively low, although somewhat larger than a year ago. The California lamb crop is making good progress and is in excellent condition. Present feed supplies are adequate, with prospects good for further development of pastures. If present feed prospects materialize, there should be a normal movement of lambs to market at good weights. Recent rainfall has benefited many areas in the Southern San Joaquin Valley and Coast Range. Much of northern California still shows the effects of excessive moisture and cold weather. In the Imperial Valley, alfalfa pasture has been excellent and old crop lambs from this area have been moving steadily to slaughter. These lambs should be gone before new crop lambs are available.

Arizona: Early lambs have been making good gains, and a large proportion of them are ready for market now. This is better progress than a year ago. Weather conditions have been highly favorable, with very little cold weather and rain.

Texas: The number of breeding ewes on January 1 was 4 percent lower than a year ago. The proportion of ewes lambing early was also lower, resulting in a smaller early lamb crop. Feed prospects are uncertain at the present time due to limited amounts of rainfall. Rains in the main sheep areas in early February started growth of small grains and grasses, but rain is urgently needed to maintain development of green feed.

Southeastern States: Reports from the three Southeastern States indicate that the number of early lambs will be about 13 percent larger than a year earlier. The number of breeding ewes on farms January 1, 1956, was up 3 percent, and the proportion of ewes lambing early was above last year. Tennessee: Dry weather until late January caused rather poor winter pasture conditions, but rains during February have promoted a rapid growth of grass and winter grains. Shortage of pasture feed caused more supplemental feeding than usual, but lambs have made fair to good development. Marketing is expected to start late in March but the peak movement is not expected until early June. Kentucky: The early lamb crop in 1956 is expected to be larger than a year earlier because of a larger number of ewes bred for lambing and a higher proportion of ewes lambing before March 1. Supplies of old feed are ample, and most flocks are being fed liberal feed rations. Pastures are supplying only a limited amount of feed, but prospects are excellent for spring grazing. Virginia: The number of early lambs is slightly larger than a year ago due to more breeding ewes on farms and more ewes lambing earlier than a year ago. Supplies of old feed are ample, and grain crops are beginning to develop which should furnish new feed soon east of the Blue Ridge Mountains. West of the mountains, there will be little grazing until the end of March.

Missouri: Due to an 11-percent increase in ewe numbers, the 1956 early lamb crop is expected to be larger than last year. The proportion of ewes lambing early is about the same as last year. Feed supplies have been adequate, and after an open winter, sheep and lambs are in excellent condition. Dry weather has limited feed from small grain pastures.

Northwestern States: Weather conditions have been generally unfavorable in this area for early lambs. Prospects are for a slightly smaller early lamb crop this year than last. Ewe numbers are below a year ago, but about the same proportion of ewes have lambed early. Washington: Weather has been unfavorable for early lambing. Temperatures averaged much below normal and snowfall was unusually heavy. Breeding ewes and early lambs have been maintained in good condition due to supplemental feeding of grain and hay. Soil moisture supplies are ample in all parts of the State, promising good spring and early summer feed when the weather becomes warmer. Oregon: Pastures are in poor condition due to extremely cold weather and the continued snow and rainy season. Mild open weather is needed for grass growth, as present soil moisture conditions are very favorable throughout the State. Breeding ewes are in only fair condition and losses of early lambs have been above average. Idaho: Breeding ewes and early lambs are in generally good condition, although losses have been heavier than a year ago due to adverse weather conditions. Prospects are good for early pasture. Hay supplies are still adequate, but a late spring would bring shortages in many areas.

SHEEP AND LAMBS - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 211

A few Choice and Prime lambs brought $21.00-21.50, and occasional lots of spring lambs reached $22.25. Most 115-140# wooled lambs realized $17.50-19.25. Cull to low-Good lambs sold from $8.00-18.50. Good to Prime shorn lambs carrying No. 2 to summer shorn pelts brought $17.00-20.25, some fresh shorn $16.00 and below. Cull to Choice slaughter ewes sold at $3.50-8.50. Good and Choice feeder lambs brought $18.00-20.00, while bred ewes sold at $14.00-25.00 a head and some ewe and lamb pairs realized $25.00 a set.

Continued on page 228.

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LIVESTOCK REVIEW - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 227

WESTERN LIVESTOCK REVIEW

Improved action featured the week's trade on slaughter cattle and hogs throughout the West and prices advanced at most points. Slaughter steers and heifers sold 50¢-$1.50 higher at Los Angeles and Spokane, steady to 50¢ higher at other terminals. Cows showed a steady to 50¢ higher trend, vealers and slaughter calves closing mostly steady. Butcher hogs sold 25-75¢ higher, slaughter lambs steady at California terminals, steady to 50¢ higher in the Northwest, steady to slightly lower at Denver and Ogden.

High-Good to Choice fed steers ranged from $16.00-20.50 at terminal markets, bulk Good $15.00-17.50, low-Good down to $14.00 at Ogden. Average-Good to Choice heifers cleared from $15.50-17.75, 4 loads high-Choice 1025-1100# $18.00-18.40 at Denver. Utility and Commercial cows brought $10.00-14.50; Canners and Cutters $8.00-11.50. Good and Choice vealers and slaughter calves under 350# bulked from $20.00-25.00, Choice vealers at Spokane and Portland $26.00-30.00. Medium and Good stocker and feeder steers cashed from $15.00-17.50; same grades heifers $13.00-15.00, 2 loads 716# shortfed heifers cashing at Los Angeles for further feeding at $15.75. Medium and Good stock steer calves earned $15.00-17.00, Good 400# at Stockton $18.50; Good and Choice at Denver $18.00-20.75.

Good and Choice fed steers sold direct at California feedlots from $18.00-19.50, 200 head Choice and Prime 1050-1075# in Southern California $20.00, some bids of $20.50 in that area refused. Good and Choice fed heifers bulked from $15.75-17.50, around 600 head Choice 950-975# heifers realizing $18.50 in Southern California. Good and Choice stocker and feeder steers brought $15.50-17.00; same grades stock steer calves $19.00-19.25.

Mixed U. S. No. 1 to 3 180-240# barrows and gilts brought $14.25 at South San Francisco late; $14.50 at Stockton; $13.50-14.50 at Los Angeles; $14.00-15.25 at Portland; $13.75-14.25 at Spokane; $13.50-14.50 at Ogden; and $13.25-14.00 at Denver. Choice and Prime 95-111# wooled slaughter lambs brought $19.25-20.00 at Denver; Good and Choice at other terminals $17.00-19.50. Choice 108-119# lambs with No. 1 pelts sold at Denver from $17.50-18.00, few lighter weights $18.50. In the Imperial Valley, Good and Choice lambs with No. 1 pelts bulked at $17.00, few loads on a sliding scale at $17.50 for 105# down and 10¢ per pound off for each pound above that weight. Direct sales f.o.b. Valley at 4% shrink.